

III. REMARKS

This paper responds to the office action mailed March 27, 2002 ("the office action"). Claims 1, 5-11 and 56 are currently pending. Claims 1, 10 and 56 have been amended herein. The applicants respectfully request reconsideration of the present application in light of the foregoing amendments and following remarks.

Claim Rejections – 35 U.S.C. § 112

In section 2 of the office action, claims 1, 5-11 and 56 were rejected to under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as allegedly being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicants regard as the invention. Applicants respectfully traverse these rejections.

First, the office action states that the recitation "connected to at least one of the first or second table..." set forth in claim 1 renders the claim indefinite. The office action states that "it seems that the locking mechanism must be at least connected (e.g. releasable connected) to the second table in order to lock the second table in position." However, Applicants believe that it is not necessary for the locking mechanism to be *connected* to the second table, and thus, the recitation in claim 1 quoted above meets the requirements of section 112, second paragraph.

Claim 1 states "the second table is slidably movable relative to the first table...." Referring to the exemplary table saw illustrated in Figure 1 of the present application, the second table 8 is shown slidably movable relative to the first table 6. In the exemplary embodiment shown, the second table is mounted to front and back rails 10 and 12, which are slidably mounted to the first table 8 allowing the second table to move relative to the first table. Referring now to Figure 3 of the present application illustrating the underside of the exemplary table saw tables, a locking mechanism 16 is shown connected to the first, or stationary, table 6.

Clamping rods 22 and 24 extend from a cam mechanism 26, through respective openings in the first table to the rails 10 and 12. In the exemplary embodiment shown, the clamping rods of the locking mechanism function to pull the rails 10 and 12 inwardly towards the first table to clamp the rails against the first table. In this manner, the second table is locked in position. In the exemplary embodiment shown in Figure 3, the locking mechanism is not directly connected to the second table.

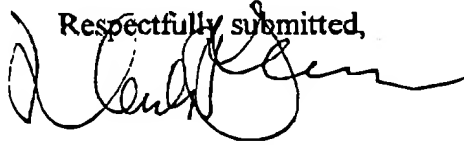
The office action further alleged that the recitation regarding the lever attached to the locking mechanism was vague. To clarify the claim language, claims 1 and 56 have been amended to recite "the locking mechanism including a lever...." Claim 10 has been amended to make the language thereof consistent with amended claim 1.

Thus, Applicants respectfully submit that the 35 U.S.C. § 112 rejections have been overcome, and that the claims are proper for allowance.

Conclusion

As evidenced by the foregoing amendments and remarks, the applicants have made a genuine effort to respond to each issue raised in the Office Action. All of the claims are believed to be in condition for allowance. The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned attorney at 952.474.3701 with any questions, comments or suggestions relating to the referenced patent application.

Respectfully submitted,



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